

REMARKS

Claims 8-10, 12, 15, 18-28 and 31 are pending in the present application. Claim 11 was canceled. Claims 8, 15, 24 and 31 were amended. Reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

I. Allowed Claims and Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner stated that Claim 11 contains allowable subject matter. Applicants, through their attorney, express appreciation to the Examiner for this statement. In view of this statement of the Examiner, Applicants have amended independent Claim 8 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 11, which has now been canceled. Amended Claim 8 is now identical to Claim 11. Accordingly, Claim 8, as well as Claims 9-10 and 12 respectively depending therefrom, are now considered to patentably distinguish over the art and to be in condition for allowance.

In like manner, independent Claims 15, 24 and 31 have respectively been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of Claim 11. Accordingly, each of these claims, as well as Claims 18-23 respectively depending from Claim 15, and Claims 25-28 respectively depending from Claim 24, are also now considered to patentably distinguish over the art and to be in condition for allowance.

II. 35 U.S.C. § 102, Anticipation

The Examiner has rejected claims 8-10, 12, 15, 18-28 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,553,409, to Zhang et al. Applicants respectfully consider this rejection to be overcome by the amendments to the claims made herein.

III. Conclusion

It is respectfully urged that the subject application is patentable over Zhang et al. and is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if in the opinion of the Examiner such a telephone conference would expedite or aid the prosecution and examination of this application.

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Respectfully submitted,

James O. Skarsten
James O. Skarsten
Reg. No. 28,346
Yee & Associates, P.C.
P.O. Box 802333
Dallas, TX 75380
(972) 385-8777
Attorney for Applicants